## Acknowledgements

This report could not have been completed without the assistance of the friendly and knowledgeable staff of the NCDMF License and Statistics Section. I would like to thank Brian Cheuvront and Dee Lupton for their guidance and assistance during the preparation of this report. Thanks also go to Lees Sabo, Don Hesselman and Grace Kemp for their help and direction in accessing and retrieving the necessary data to complete this project. I would also like to thank Larry Lowrimore for providing me with the necessary license data to complete to this report. A thanks goes out to Scott Chappell for generating the map in Figure 1. I would also like to thank all of the port agents and data clerks for their hard work in screening and editing the landings data received through the North Carolina Trip Ticket Program. Special thanks also to Dee Willis.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who reviewed drafts of this document including Maury Wolff, Joe Grist, Dr. John Maiolo and Dr. John Whitehead. All of your comments were greatly appreciated.